INSIDE CG Mail **HCAX** A-3 DUI A-5 **Cherry Blossom Festival** Leisure Travel B-1 MCCS & SM&SP Word to Pass B-3 Menu & Ads B-6 C-1 Pro Bowl **Sports Briefs** C-2 The Bottom Line C-3 **Health & Fitness**

February 13, 2004 Volume 34, Number 6 www.mcbh.usmc.mil

P-3loses engine

Lance Cpl. **Rich Mattingly** Combat Correspondent

Tuesday afternoon, a Canadian Air Force P-3 was forced to make an emergency landing at Marine Corps Air Facility aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The P-3, which was on a training mission from Comox, Canada, and was hosted by Patrol Squadron 9, experienced a malfunction in one of its four engines, causing it to radio MCAF air traffic control for assistance.

"The P-3 radioed the tower, and we directed it onto runway four," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Vleet Roberts, a fleet clearance dispatcher with MCAF Air Traffic Control. "The Canadian P-3 lost its number two engine, and had to come

The plane landed safely, with no damage or anyone harmed, said Staff Sgt. Johnnie Finnell, a firefighter with MCAF's Crash Fire and Rescue.

"We taxied the P-3 back to VP-9 and made sure the pilot and crew were OK," said Finnell.

The cause of the airplane's engine malfunction is under investiga-

Marines, Sailors urged to vote

From the Secretary of the Navy

Today, Sailors and Marines are deployed throughout the world, often in harm's way, protecting our nation and supporting the cause of freedom and democracy. In many places, the struggle centers on one very basic but powerful principle of democracy — the

right to vote. In our country, we have that right as a result of past and present sacrifices of U.S. service men and women like you. Therefore, it is particularly appropriate that you, who protect this right for all of us, also exercise this right for yourself. It's your sacrifice, it's your country, and it's your future. You've earned

See VOTING, A-8

Lancers take off from HCAX

An F/A-18C Hornet with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni takes off from the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay flight line to return to Japan. The squadron has been at K-Bay since Jan. 22 for the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise, which ran from Jan. 20 until Wednesday at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Aggressors storm PTA

Supply Company engages hostile forces at HCAX

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING **AREA** — The training experiences for Combat Service Support Group 3 that are taking place here on the Big Island of Hawaii just wouldn't be complete without plenty of attacks from opposing forces, or aggressors.

Fifteen Marines clothed in desert camouflage gear, and acting as a guerrilla force, are determined to probe the lines and hit the Group area in hopes of preventing its Marines from completing their mission: supporting infantry battalions in a time of war. The aggressors would soon move towards the camp, look for weaknesses and infiltrate through, to take what they could to disrupt CSSG-3's mission.



Corporal Ken Imamura, a supply clerk with Supply Co., CSSG-3, patrols the perimeter before an attack by opposing forces.

officer for Supply Company, CSSG-3, and Sgt. Theodore F. Schmit, the platoon sergeant for the opposing forces, led the group of attackers.

"Our main mission throughout the duration of this training is to give the [CSSG-3] Marines a scenario that forces them to deal with

First Lt. Juan L. Reyna, supply terrorist combatants and put them

Corporal Bunnarith Buth (right), a motor transport operator, searches Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Campbell, a combat engineer, both with the Engineer Co., CSSG-3, while Cpl. Wayne Teasley, a motor transport operator also with Engineer Co., stands guard.

in a situation that forces them to think fast, and act fast," said Schmit.

The overall goal was also to teach them better offensive tactics, mainly patrolling tactics, since going on patrols and practicing signals prepares them for future missions, explained.

Although CSSG-3 Marines and Sailors aren't used to the elevation and extreme weather changes throughout the day at PTA, they are staying extremely motivated through it all, said Reyna.

"They are really getting into that tactical mindset that they need, and they are really eager to learn," he added. "There are no complaints from these Marines."

Supply Co. Marines patrolled the area Feb. 4 and encountered attacking forces. Staff Sgt. Edward S. Garcia, training staff noncommissioned officer charge, CSSG-3, took Marines out on patrol to give them a taste of what it would really be like in combat, as opposed to just learning about field patrols in a classroom setting.

The Supply Marines learned basic tactics, combat formations, offensive and defensive positions, immediate action drills and ambushes while outside of the camp a couple days.

"It's really rare that these Marines get a chance to get out and do this," said Garcia. "I take everyone I can to do this because it's such good training."

Combat Service Support Group 3 Marines and the aggressors met, fought and then discussed both their strengths and weaknesses when all was done. They shared what improvement was needed to correct mistakes, but overall, all agreed both sides performed very well.

The scenarios were the first of many that would occur at PTA. The Marines say they are aware of what is to come, and they will remain cautious and ready for any and all scenarios that may come.

Hawaii military asked to respond to survey

Naval Medical Clinic Press Release

PEARL HARBOR -The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCA-HO) and the Naval Medical Inspector General will conduct a joint accreditation survey of Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor from March 9-18. The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission and U.S. Navy standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives.

Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview with JCAHO must be made in writing and should be to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins (on March 4). The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview.

Address such requests to the following address:

Division of Accreditation Operations, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Blvd. Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

The Joint Commission will acknowledge requests in writing, or by telephone, and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting.

Concerns may also be brought to the attention of the Medical Inspector General by calling 1-800-637-6175.

MCBH News Briefs

TAX CENTER NOW OPEN

Service members, retirees and family members can make appointments to complete their 2003 federal and state tax forms at the MCB Hawaii Tax Center.

Walk-in appointments are also available at the Center, which is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday hours of operation are 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Tax Center is located next to the 7-Day Store, Bldg. 455, on Lawrence Road.

Be sure to bring your W-2 forms, bank account routing and checking/savings account numbers, a copy of your 2002 tax returns, and any other forms that will be required for your tax application(s).

To schedule an appointment, call 257-1534 or visit www.mcbh.usmc.mil/ sja/sjatax.htm.

Prayer Breakfast Scheduled

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will observe the annual National Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 26 at the Anderson Hall dining facility aboard Kaneohe Bay, Bldg. 1089. Colonel Jeffrey Patterson, commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment, will be the guest speaker for this event.

The cost for the prayer breakfast is \$1.70. Anderson Hall will open at 6 a.m., and the program will start at 7 a.m.

DEFY NEEDS MENTORS

What is DEFY? Drug Education for Youth is a unique, comprehensive, oneyear program for youth 9 to 12 years old.

The program helps reduce risk factors linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency and violence.

The program delivers leadership and life skills training for youth, by teaching team building, conflict resolution, ageappropriate goal setting and self-confidence skills.

The office is looking for men and women, whether military or civilian, to serve as mentors. A minimum of nine mentors are needed by May 14. If you're interested in getting involved, call Daryl Picadura, program coordinator at 257-8559 or Sgt. Steven Schram at 257-1230, ext. 242.

Hawaii

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IN THE CG'S MAIL BOX -



BRIG. GEN. **MCABEE**

Comment submitted by Senior Chief Petty Officer Zimmerman

"... Close the North Beach area to pets, and everyone with small children use that beach and open [Hase to pets]..."

(Editor's Note: Submitted response to a Jan. 16 A-1 article.)

While I completely agree that cell phones are a dangerous device while driving -- when not used safely within the realm of common sense, I also believe that eating, reading, smoking, drinking any beverage, applying facial makeup and a whole gambit of other functions while driving, are unsafe.

There are absolutely good reasons for people not to speak on cell phones while driving. I would assume that the average age of service personnel on this base is between the ages 17 to 24, and most of them haven't learned how to drive. Adding another function to their motor skills usually ends them up in the news. I know because I rear-ended a motorist while lighting a cigarette once.

But there are so many other issues this base has that should be addressed and corrected. Cell phone use may be one, but it's not the most important to me. I have lived on this base for nearly three years and believe that there are things that can be changed to make Marines and Sailors safer.

A few ideas:

•Enforce the jay walking laws, if they exist. The road from the base gym to the gas station is an unsafe drive. One day there must have been four people crossing (running) in front of me to go to McDonalds.

•Road patterns: Change the [Mokapu] road patterns to "no left turns" from the barracks and a couple of company headquarters during peak hours: morning, noon and

•Squads of less than eight people stay off the roads: there is plenty of side space on most roads to walk, run, jog or march on. But so many service personnel assume since they

are carrying a weapon, they should walk right down the center. It is unbelievable.

• Pet-friendly restriction lifted: This is not so much a safety hazard, but a nicer way to treat the families of pet owners. [Hase] Beach is useless. At best, it is a sun-bathing area if you enjoy a sand blasting while you are bathing. That entire area from the right of the last covered picnic area should be allowed to have pets walk that area on a leash. You can't swim in that area because of the rocks and current.

Fishermen are now restricted to that area since we have closed the explosive road from the turn to the housing area to the range. I was told the entire [Hase] area was a bird sanctuary, and when dogs poop on the grass areas where birds live, the birds die or never return to

Well, if that's the case I would suspect that the huge tanks, humand APCs [Armored Personnel Carriers that constantly drive through that area have pretty much kept the bird population

I think we need to look at this beach area and change some of the restrictions. Especially now, since there are construction trailers parked in the same area where security told me there was a bird sanctuary.

My recommendation is [to] close the North Beach area to pets, and everyone with small children use that beach and open [Hase to pets], which is useless for anything else. Makes perfect [sense] to me.

I am sure there are other ideas and advice I could come up with, since my wife and I talk about these issues a lot. But I thought since my time on this base is coming to an end, I needed to share a few thoughts. My tour here has been great, and it is wonderful to be addressed politely when you enter this base. But as we all know, everything and everyone can improve somehow.

Very Respectfully, Senior Chief Petty Officer Zimmerman



Currently, pets are prohibited on MCB Hawaii beaches, except for leashed dogs on North Beach during posted hours, which are currently sunrise to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to sunset, daily. Fort Hase Beach, above, is currently open to beach-goers and fishermen, but not pets.

Dear Senior Chief Petty Officer Zimmerman.

The commanding general asked me to respond to your e-mail of Jan. 21 because your concern falls under my staffs' area of responsibility. The commanding general appreciates that you took the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Your concerns about safe driving are appreciated and well placed. We are concerned about safety aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii and have an award-winning safety program.

Some concerns about safe driving are exactly why MARADMIN 225/03 was published, and subsequently prohibited the use of cell phones without hands-free devices and mandated penalties for driving without seat belts.

The spirit and intent of the directive is to prevent drivers from being distracted from their primary mission, which is driving. The Base Safety Office and the Military Police Department are also concerned about any other distractions like eating, putting on make-up, etc., that drivers may engage in while driving, and concur that they can result in accidents.

To combat all unsafe driving practices, the MPD conducts contin-

uous police patrols aboard the base frequently establishes Commanding General's Random Vehicle Inspection checkpoints. This proactive posture helps prevent serious traffic-related incidents aboard the base.

Your concerns about Mokapu Road are also well taken. The base maintains several crosswalks at key areas throughout the installation to facilitate crossing busy streets. Unfortunately, as you identified, not all pedestrians use the provided crosswalks.

Military police and safety personnel enforce these offenses when observed; however, past experience has shown that the most effective measures for curbing this type of activity are those conducted at the small-unit level and on-the-spot corrections made by individuals and leaders. We need the involvement of people aboard base to stop unsafe activity when they see it, and we will continue to pursue our long-term strategy of safety through education, awareness and enforcement.

We have conducted extensive traffic safety and related studies in this area, and have determined that the existing road pattern is in compliance with nationally accepted standards, and is the safest configuration for our community. We have had no accidents reported from people departing barracks' or the headquarter's buildings.

We have had reported accidents on Mokapu Road, most of which have occurred at intersections, and we are going to conduct a review of these accidents to ensure the current traffic control devices are configured in the best way possible.

Finally, your "pet friendly" idea concerning Fort Hase Beach is a good idea and is under review by the Base Environmental Department. Currently, as you noted, pets are prohibited on beaches except for leashed dogs on North Beach during posted hours, currently 3 p.m. to sunset and sunrise to 10 a.m., daily. Changes will be published once a decision has been made.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and concerns. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 257-3110, and again, thank you for taking the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Sincerely, Lt. Col. C. B. Martin Provost Marshal MCB Hawaii

(<u>Editor's Note</u>: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.) The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.

"... You guys are the Marines' doctors; There's no better in the business than a Navy Corpsman ..."

Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, U.S.M.C.





Petty Officer 3rd Class Martin Dierks, a corpsmen with CSSG-3, leads the stretcher to the medical tent during the mass casualty drill.

Mass casualty drill keeps HCAX on toes at PTA

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — The Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise tested corpsmen who are training here on the Big Island of Hawaii during a mass casualty drill Feb. 5.

The drill began with a simulated accident, when a rocket-propelled grenade indirectly hit a seven-ton truck. Eight casualties resulted from the accident, which tested the ability of corpsmen to think and react quickly to get the injured Marines to safety.

For three of the corpsmen, it was the first time they had taken part in such a drill.

"It was a really good training evolution for them," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Dierks, Martin CSSG-3 corpsman who explained that it was very impressive to see how they handled the situation. "They thought quickly and took all the necessary procedures to get the casualties into a safe area."

Upon arriving at the scene, the site was secured to ensure that no further injuries could occur. Once safety was established, the patients were placed into categories of needed care.

"In a field situation like this, the main priority is to get the Marines back on the front line and ready to fight again," said

Dierks. "In different situations, the critically injured would receive the most care; that can't always happen out here."

In the field environment, patients are categorized as expectant, imme-

diate and delayed. The immediate and delayed category patients are cared for first. Immediate injuries are serious — such as bone fractures, but possibly would be allowed to return to the field if the injuries are not too bad. Delayed patients only manifest cuts and minor abrasions, while expectant category patients present the worst-case scenario. Expectant victims are critically wounded, and it's believed they will not come out of the situation alive.

"It's hard to see, but sometimes you just can't care for them exactly the way you would want to," said Dierks. "You only have so much medical equipment, and you want to put that towards a patient that you know can pull out of the situation."

According to evaluators, the drill went very well with only minor problems. The only real flaw during the exercise was keeping up good communications with the rear. Despite this, corpsmen demonstrated internal communication with one another throughout the exercise, and took precautionary measures ensuring the injured could be safely evacuated out of the area.

"It's impossible to tell what someone would really do in a wartime situation. You think on a totally different level, and it's easy to lose focus," said Dierks. "This is just such good training though, because the more you do it, the better you will get. The corpsmen out here really give it there all."

Engineers aid disaster relief

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING

AREA — Combat Service Support Group 3's Engineer Company went through a plethora of Human Aid Disaster Relief (HADR) scenarios as training continued during the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise here on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Marines and Corpsmen were forced to deal with situations that involved people in need of medical care and food, along with "attackers" that were thrown into the mixture.

Gunnery Sgt. Michael Bowen, a combat engineer with Engineer Co., said that it was the first time these Marines had actually performed an HADR operation.

"This is allowing the Marines to get a feel for something that they have a good chance of dealing with in real-life situations," said Bowen. "It will always be differ-



Gunnery Sgt. Michael Bowen, a combat engineer, is searched by Cpl. Bunnarith Buth, a motor transport operator, both with Engineer Co., CSSG-3, after being detained during Human Aid Disaster Relief operations at the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area.

now at least they can practice valuable learning experience. properly for the real thing."

said he believed his Marines displayed good control and situation-

ent when it really happens, but all awareness, and they enjoyed the

"My intentions were to train Bowen played the part of a these Marines to have the ability to refugee during the training. He do their own job, but be able to

See HADR, A-8

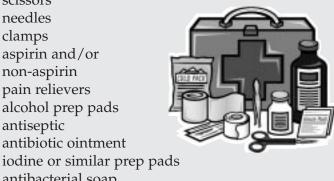
Survival first aid

Medical care is critical in a survival situation. Acquiring food, water and shelter should be at the top of your emergency care list, but also be sure to have the very basics listed below:

band-aids (assorted sizes and shape) roller bandages elastic triangular bandages various gauze pads combat dressings cotton balls or tips medical adhesive tape scissors needles clamps aspirin and/or non-aspirin pain relievers alcohol prep pads antiseptic antibiotic ointment

antibacterial soap

thermometer



Word on the Street

"What romantic gesture would sweep you off your feet?



"A thirty pack of Miller Lite and a big screen TV for the first NASCAR race of the season."

Staff Sgt. Don Arbuckle Dive chief 4th Force Reconnaissance Co.



"Any Frank Sinatra would sweep me off my feet."

Cpl. Jennifer Diguglielmo NCOIC, Base Adjutant's Office Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"For someone to take my kids for the whole day."

Monica Atherton Sales representative Marine Corps Exchange



'A dozen roses from my roommate."

Lance Cpl. **David Beiser** Inbound clerk Base Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"To go on a dinner cruise or horseback riding."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tonya McCormack Aviation electrician Patrol Squadron 4

A-4 • February 13, 2004 Hawaii Marine

Marines respond well against aggressors

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA —

Marines here got hands-on experience of what a real gas attack would be like during a weapons of mass destruction incident (WMD) Feb. 4. Devil dogs from Combat Service Support Group 3 arrived at the scene to investigate reports of WMD in full Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) 4 gear. There was a possibility an attack would occur, so weapons were brought along, as well as chemical detection equipment, individual protective equipment and a security team.

Staff Sgt. Caleb D. Eames, NBC chief for CSSG-3, said it was the first time Group Marines practiced a WMD incident. The scenario prepared the Group for response to real-world threats.

"The Marines did extremely well out there," said Eames. "Despite the surprise attack from aggressors, the Marines responded in a quick, coordinated manner."

Opposing forces waited for Marines to call "all clear" after inspecting the area. Then "CS" grenades were tossed into the area, releasing a gas and simulating the appearance of a blister agent. Group Marines acted quickly, donning their gear and getting into a defensive position. The operation's decon team then arrived to ensure that contamination was eliminated, and the mission could continue.

Corporal Travis R. Eiklor, an NBC specialist with CSSG-3, played the role as



Lance Cpl. Jason Thompson, armorer for Maintenance Company, CSSG-3, and Pfc. Christopher Rios, auto mechanic, Maintenance Company, test a mysterious box for chemical agents.

one of the aggressors during the exercise.

"It was really great to catch the Marines by surprise and force them to make decisions on their own," he said. "It reinforces that they know what

they're doing and gives them confidence in the end."

"This was great timing being here for them to get this training," said Eiklor. "It was the perfect spot and the Marines were motivated to do it." It is just a small step into larger operations that will take place for the Marines at the Pohakuloa Training Area.

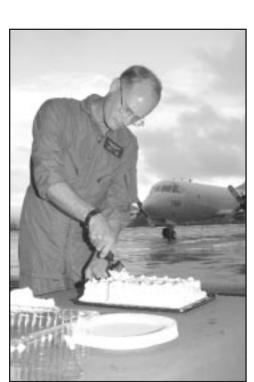
"It brings the Marines together because we all really love the CAX," said Eiklor.







Marines from CSSG-3 don their MOPP 4 gear, Feb. 4, during a surprise attack at the Pohakuloa Training Area. The exercise simulated a weapons of mass destruction attack.



Senior Chief Mike Allen cuts a slice of cake that commemorates his achievement of 10,000 hours in flight. The P-3 Orion engineer touched down recently to the warm reception from friends, family and fellow airmen. Also, Lockheed recognized his accomplishments with a certificate that few receive, and a commemorative lapel pin. Allen has bragging rights to the most hours aloft in his squadron.

Lance Cpl. Rich Mattingly

VPU-2 flight engineer soars to milestone

Lance Cpl.
Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

Recently, the flight line at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, was a welcome sight to a Patrol Squadron 2 senior chief flight engineer as his P-3 Orion descended, successfully logging his 10,000th flight hour.

When Senior Chief Mike Allen reached a "year in the air," or 8,060 hours aloft, in August 2002, he never imagined that the next big milestone for aviators was less than two years away.

Airmen from VPU-2, family members and well-wishers were on hand to congratulate Allen on his entrance into the "10,000 Club."

"Now, reaching 10,000 hours is a rarity," said Senior Chief Ted Gallinat, flight engineer with VPU-2; "it's huge."

Receiving a certificate and lapel pin from Lockheed Martin Corporation for his achievement, Allen was congratulated by all present before cutting a cake commemorating the flight.

"Flight engineers are incredibly valuable to a flight crew and pilot," said Lt. Cmdr. Eric Seib, a P-3 pilot with VPU-2. "Their expertise is unquestionable, especially if anything ever goes wrong with the aircraft."

Allen didn't expect to hit the mark before he left flight status for good.

"I figured my flying career would be over long before I hit that mark," said Allen. "We're not flying the P-3s as much as we used to, but with more going on, we've gotten to be more active."

Allen's next tour will take him to Pensacola, Fla., where he's slated to be an instructor at the Naval Aircrew Candidate School.

(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those convicted of DUIs or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

•Lance Cpl. Jade C. Alain of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, was taken into custody Feb. 3 for driving under the influence with the blood alcohol content of 0.210 percent. His license was suspended that same day. He was not the responsible owner of the vehicle, so it was not removed from base.

• Petty Officer 1st Class Ines J. Ramos of Patrol Squadron 4 was taken into custody Feb. 5 for driving under the influence with the blood alcohol content of 0.156 percent. His license was suspended on Feb. 5. He was not the responsible owner of the vehicle, so it was not removed from base.



DUIs are career killers

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reminds that impaired driving is not merely a traffic offense. Don't be fooled. Impaired driving is no accident, nor is it a victimless crime.

Too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. If you also find this too hard to figure out when you've had too many drinks to drive, don't risk it. If you're feeling "buzzed," you are most likely impaired. And, if you drive impaired, law enforcement will arrest you.

You drink & drive. YOU LOSE

TO DO LIST

With any activity that involves alcohol:

Plan ahead.

- Choose a sober designated driver.
- •Take mass transit or a taxicab, or ask a friend to drive you home if you didn't plan in advance.
- •Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Celebrate responsibly.
- •Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.

Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival

MarForPac Band joins Japanese tradition

Hawaii Marine

Hawaii Marine Staff
Public Affairs Office

WAIMEA, Hawaii — The Marine Forces Pacific Band performed here Saturday at the 11th Annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival, helping to mark the first time that the annual festival has included a military tribute to local residents and military personnel who served during World War

Introducing the band and some of its selections was special guest Dr. George Durham, a retired Marine from Hilo. Durham trained at nearby Camp Tarawa in 1944 as the 18-year-old drum major with the 5th Marine Division Band, before and after the Battle of Iwo Jima. He spoke about the influence of the military in Waimea during wartime and what the support of the community meant to Marines and Sailors far from home.

The band performed at Parker School, which during World War II served as the United Service Organizations for the more than 50,000 Marines and Sailors of first the 2nd, then the 5th Marine Division.

A historical document and photography exhibit provided by the Pacific War Memorial Association allowed visitors to read about and see images of Waimea and the Marines who trained there. Set up inside the school's main entrance hall, the exhibit commemorated the military's influence in Waimea.

Ms. Alice Clark, PWMA chairperson, and her husband, "Bee," put the exhibit together; it is stored at Lyman House Museum in Hilo when it is not on display. Historical videos shown throughout the day in the school theater included footage taken at Camp Tarawa during World War II and interviews with local residents who remembered the Marines.

Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival organizers enthusiastically welcomed Clark's suggestion that the annual community celebration begin this year to include commemoration of the history that exists between Waimea and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Several different cultures were represented on the Big Island of Hawaii prior to World War II, but the majority of

Waimea residents were Japanese. Many of them had come to Hawaii from Hiroshima.

When 2nd Marine Division survivors of the Battle of Tarawa came to Waimea in December 1943, the community consisted of about 400 residents whose homes were lit by kerosene lamps. The Marines brought and installed a grid to provide electrical power, cut and paved roads, and dammed the Waimea River to

create a reservoir so water could be piped throughout the area. Marines built an ice house and made ice cream — something the townspeople had never had before. Local entrepreneurs soon learned how to prepare a wide variety of recipes the Marines shared, including how to grind up beef, grill it, stick it in a bun and sell it as a "ham-

burger." Local stores began to stock colorful muumuus and other items for the Marines to buy and send home to wives or girlfriends.

Saturday's festivities were focused around the Japanese tradition of celebrating the annual blooming of the cherry tree, Japan's national tree. The hundreds of festivals held in Japan each year, from January to June, are an important part of the Japanese culture. Cherry trees are not native to the Hawaiian Islands, but have adapted surprisingly well to the climate in Waimea since the first ones were imported and planted there in 1953.

Attendance at the festival has grown from about 300 to more than 8,000. It's a way for the community to honor the Japanese culture and to experience the traditions that were so prominent in the lives of their families in Japan.

Other features of this year's festival included traditional Japanese tea ceremonies, songs and dances of Japan, a farmer's market, origami and calligraphy instruction, a taiko drum performance, a quilting exhibit, hula presentations, mochi making, an open house at a local Buddhist mission, a cultural craft fair and a plant sale.

Good weather prevailed throughout the day, as residents and visitors enjoyed the various activities, including the band's concert at Parker School. More than 100 people sat on benches on the



The Marine Forces Pacific Band performed a variety of musical selections while attending a tribute to military members at the Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival.



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stine

A giant, inflatable Marine, which promoted the Hilo Marine Corps Recruiting Station, stood outside the Parker School in Waimea, beside the site where a USO had stood during World War II.

school's covered porch, stood on the lawn and sidewalk out front and clustered in the shade across the street to enjoy the music. Along with music selections, which included "The Men of Iwo Jima March" (composed in 1944-45 by members of the 5th Marine Division at Camp Tarawa) and a Japanese piece,

"Sakura, Sakura," that is traditionally played at Cherry Blossom time.

The Marine Corps' friendship with the community of Waimea has continued through the years. The Waimea Civic Club dedicated a small monument in 1984 at what was once a gate to Camp Tarawa, to honor the 2nd and 5th Marine Divisions and the V Amphibious Corps. Fourteen years later, a three-paneled granite memorial was added through the efforts of the Camp Tarawa Historical Foundation, another non-profit organization chaired by Clark. Also through the years, former, active duty and retired Marines have come to Waimea, to share its history.

Former Marine Charlie Tutschek and his wife, Yvette, both of Waikoloa, joined five active duty Marines last week in Waimea to spend several hours carefully cleaning the brass plaque on the original Camp Tarawa monument, in preparation for the community festival.

"The Marines had come down from Pohakuloa Training Area [PTA] to clean the plaque," said Tutschek. "We saw them working on it as we were driving into town. The two of us have frequently come to the monument to help erase the effects of wind and weather, so we stopped to help.

"This was the largest Marine training camp in the Pacific during World War II. Marines will never forget what it and the friendship of the people here have meant to us," Tutschek added.

Waimea community embodies proud history

Sarah Fry

Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office

WAIMEA, Hawaii — When Pearl Harbor was bombed in December of 1941, about 400 residents lived in the Big Island community of Waimea — now known as "Kamuela" — most of them employee families of the huge Parker Ranch, and a few related businesses. The community was diverse, including Hawaiians, Chinese, Filipinos and, by a significant majority, Japanese.

Waimea residents and cowboys — known in Hawaii as "paniolos" — quickly came together to organize 24-hour watches against further Japanese attack. The Hawaii National Guard, then the U.S. Army, set up an encampment at the edge of town on Parker Ranch.

Within months, thousands of American service men were fighting in the Pacific. After the bloody Battle of Tarawa in November 1943, remnants of the 2nd Marine Division arrived in Hawaii. Their wounded were unloaded at Pearl Harbor and taken to the Naval hospital at Aiea — now the Marine Forces Pacific headquarters building at Camp H. M. Smith. The battle-scarred survivors who did not need hospitalization were taken to the Big Island of Hawaii to recover and rebuild the division.

Of the Marines shipped to Hilo, some were moved by truck, but most were loaded into open rail cars to travel the 65 miles to Waimea on a narrow-gauge line

usually used to transport sugar cane. Fog and mist shrouded the passage and winds chilled the ragged division. A few division members were landed on the beach, 16 miles from Waimea by landing ship tanks, or LSTs.

The Marines' new camp was located in a saddle between Hawaii's two volcanoes, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, which towered in the distance. Ever-breezy Waimea was not the "island paradise" many of the men had expected.

The Marines were battle-weary and cold, still wearing the uniforms in which they had fought and sailed back in across the Pacific. Many were with sick malaria. Though their morale sank as they surveyed their new "home," before they could rest they would need to resurrect what they would come to call "Camp Tarawa." good news was that a detachment of Navy Seabees arrived to help.

Parker Ranch owner Richard Smart had leased 40,000 acres to the Marine Corps for \$1 a year. When 2nd Marine Division arrived, he moved out of his home, Puu Opelo, so it could become division headquarters. The Waimea school and hotel were converted to hospitals. Parker Hall became the local United Service Organizations.

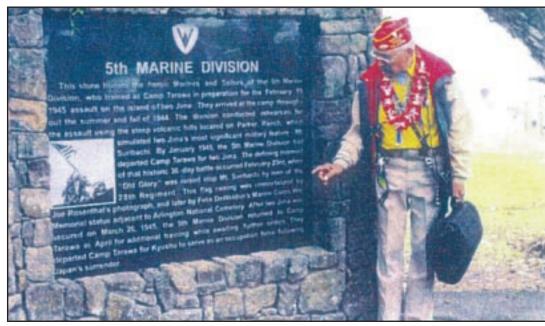
Women took in washing. Families invited Marines into their homes on weekends for home-cooked meals. When Marines received "free" time, they joined forces with townspeople to play against outsiders, held boxing matches and basketball games.

The Marines sorely needed blankets and warm clothing items. Most personal gear had been lost in the battle. Entrepreneurs showed up to sell everything from newspapers to hot dogs.

As 2nd Marine Division began to recover and to retrain in earnest, it made major changes in the community. The Marines dammed the Waimea River miles upstream and piped water down to the town. They ran electricity throughout the area, replacing kerosene as the fuel for lights. They also built an icehouse, where they made ice cream for the troops and local children.

The division practiced amphibious landings, air cover and amphibious tank operations in preparation for its next battle assignment, at Saipan, then Tinian and, for the 8th Marine Regiment, Okinawa. When 2nd Marine Division left Waimea for Saipan, artillery units of "V" Amphibious Corps continued to train on the mountain ranges.

A few weeks later, trucks rumbled into town bearing the newly formed 5th Marine Division, just arrived from Camp Pendleton, Calif. These Marines donned new gear and equipment and seemed younger and more willing to laugh than the battle-hardened troops now on their way to the Marshall Islands.



Courtesy of the Pacific War Memorial Associatio

This stone honors the heroic Marines and Sailors of the 5th Marine Division, who trained at Camp Tarawa in preparation for the Feb. 19, 1945, assault on the island of Iwo Jima.

The 5th Marine Division trained, in part, by assaulting two volcanic formations on Parker Ranch. Lava ash slowed the Marines' progress as they fought their way up the steep slopes, but many knew that their hard work at Camp Tarawa was in preparation for the coming assault on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi in the Volcano Islands.

The Marines introduced rodeo to Hawaii, where cattle raising and horse breaking had a long history as a business, not a sport. Parker Ranch provided horses, steers and calves for the rodeo, and a huge barbecue for the participants and onlookers to enjoy.

On Christmas Day 1944, the division mounted out for landing rehearsals at Maalea Bay, then headed for Iwo Jima. Those not killed or seriously wounded returned to Camp Tarawa in April 1945, and began to rebuild for the invasion of the Japanese home islands.

When the war ended, the 5th Marine Division was sent to Japan for occupation duty, and the Army took over Camp Tarawa, auctioning off equipment and structures.

In 1984, the Waimea Civic Club erected a monument outside Waimea, along Mamalahoa Highway, to remember the one-time home to two Marine Divisions.

A-8 • February 13, 2004 Hawaii Marine

Breaking ground for worship

(Left to right) Navy Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph W. Estabrook, command chaplain, MCB Hawaii; Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii; and Brig. Gen. Willie J. Williams, assistant deputy commandant of the Marine Corps, break ground for a new base chapel on K-**Bay in February** 2005. The \$9.5 million project will be constructed solely by local contractors and subcontractors, and will include numerous enhancements.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

HADR, From A-3

perform others as well," said 1st Lt. Gary Humphries, commander also out in the field during the HADR. "The Marines are learning what it's like to help out in bad situations, and to be able to make the decisions needed for the benefit of everyone."

Marines disguised as camp, either begging for performance.

food or medical attention. Most cooperated, but a select few became violent. When that situation occurred, the Marines of Engineer Co., who was brought the aggressors to the ground, then removed them to a detained area.

Military police were also on hand to display proper maneuvers for stopping aggressors.

Marines The Engineer Co. will contin-During the HADR, ue these HADR training scenarios throughout the civilians approached the HCAX to improve their



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dicksor

VOTING, From A-1

this right, and your vote counts.

I encourage you to register to vote early this year. Do it now to eliminate potential problems later. Your command's Voting Assistance Officer has the absentee voter registration materials.

Thanks for your untiring service to America and our democratic ideals. God bless you and your families, and God bless America.

The Honorable Gordon R. England Secretary of the Navy

2004 Voting Tips

- •Mail your Federal Post Card Application form to obtain an Absentee Ballot prior to Aug. 15, to participate in this year's presidential elections on Nov. 2.
- Because election laws vary from state to state, service members and their families should consult the recently distributed 2004/2005 Voting Assistance Guide for procedures to register or request an absentee ballot in local, state or federal elections.
- •The Guide is available online www.fvap.gov, and materials may also be obtained through unit voting assistance officers.